



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Julia Forsythe (Chair), Andy Robinson (Vice Chair), Brooks Harrelson, Helene Newberg, Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Keith Mistler, Lisa Krinsky

Liaisons: Christina Coleman – DEI, Len Diggins – Select Board

Guests: Molly Gillis (Volunteer), Bea (Student/Arlington High School GSA President)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. KM assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines read by JF.
2. Welcome and introductions (include your pronouns if you want to)
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. AR moved to approve consent agenda, BH seconds, passed unanimously.

4. Community Updates & Upcoming Events (10 min)
 - a. CC announced an upcoming event: Equity & Affordable housing panel that will be cosponsored by the AHRC.
 - b. AR & KM are planning a Rainbow Happy Hour Trivia event to start off the new year.
5. Liaison Updates (15 min)
 - a. LD announced upcoming forum on Industrial zoning.
 - b. LD shared the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committees' survey with the commission to help provide the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee with community input.
 - c. KM & MG attended training at Pierce elementary – went very well.
6. Working Group Updates (10 min)
 - a. APD Policy Update
 - I. SRV shared recommendations with the APD policy department on interacting with transgender individuals. SRV submitted a cover letter with helpful statistics, summaries of new laws, language updates, and training recommendations.
 - II. BH suggests invited Chief Flaherty to discuss potential policy changes based on SRV's recommendations. JF seconds, all in favor.
7. 2021 RC Leadership
 - a. JF will step down as chair after January meeting. AR will become the new chair.
 - b. Vice chair position will need to be filled.
8. AFR Building Community Series Co-Sponsorship
 - a. AR suggests that HRC should sponsor and Rainbow Commission will co-sponsor with HRC.
9. Police Civilian Review Board Study Committee – RC Representative
 - a. SRV volunteered to representative on the Police Civilian Review Board Study Committee and is excited to be the liaison.
10. Superintendent Selection Process Concerns (10 min)
 - a. Commission expressed concerns about the superintendent selection process
 - i. Inequitable interviewing process and limited time to give feedback to the School Committee – KM, AR, AND SRV are planning on drafting a letter to the School Committee.
11. Domestic Partnership Warrant Article (10 min)

- a. LD gave us some background information and BH suggested the commission speak with Town Counsel, Doug Heim.
 - i. There is maternity leave, but adding paternity leave would be an issue to go before the Select Board.
- b. LD suggested it may be better to do the warrant article without the amendment process.
- c. Changes would also need to go before the finance committee in addition to the annual town meeting.
- d. The commission should take this opportunity to educate community members about domestic partnership bylaws in comparison to marital relationship laws.
- e. LK shared there is need for more understanding before commission should endorse, and education to community is needed.
- f. KM suggested inviting guests to share more info on the subject at the next meeting.

12. AHS GSA Fundraising Campaign Support (5 min)

- a. Bea – GSA is asking for the Rainbow Commission’s support in helping publicize GSA’s fundraiser, a t-shirt campaign, that will donate all profits to trans emergency fund.
- b. BH proposes a \$100 to the GSA’s fundraiser, LK seconds, all in favor.

13. Public Engagement and Open Commentary (15 min)

- a. No comments.

7:58pm: JF moved to adjourn meeting, AR seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: January 21st, 2021, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.